

agency and the breadth of experience led her to the western region where she served as Deputy Regional Director/Chief of Staff for the NPS Intermountain Region in Lakewood, Colorado, the Associate Regional Director for Resource Stewardship and Research in the Intermountain Regional Office, and as Pacific West Regional Director in San Francisco.

During her tenure as General Superintendent of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, and Fort Point National Historic Site, Laura has been a tireless advocate for communities, underserved audiences, and staff. She successfully navigated the challenges of leading these popular units of the National Park Systems and did so during a pandemic. She hosted national and international visits by congressional staff, Washington officials, and international dignitaries, including the Italian President and delegations from Norway and the Ukraine studying the parks as a model for developing their own national park systems. Under Laura's direction, NPS also signed the first sister park agreement with the First Lady of Costa Rica to develop their Isla San Lucas National Park, a twin to the park's Alcatraz Island unit.

In our personal experiences working with Laura, she has been a consummate professional, responsive to community issues, and conducted herself with a professional and diplomatic demeanor. Our national parks and communities have benefited from Laura's transparency, integrity, and deep commitment to the Golden Gate Recreation Area and extended national park system.

Madam Speaker, we respectfully ask that you join us in expressing gratitude to Laura for her enduring commitment to public service and extending heartfelt congratulations on her more than three decades with the National Park Service.

**HONORING DREW HELLENSEN,
OLYMPIC ATHLETE**

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Farmington native Drew Hellenson on his performance at the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing, which earned the United States Ice Hockey team 5th place.

At only 21 years old, Drew has earned the Hockey East Best Defensive Defenseman, First Team All-Hockey East and Second Team AHCA All-American awards. With countless winning games and titles under his belt, he has proven to all of us that anything can be achieved when you stay committed to your dreams.

On behalf of Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District, I want to congratulate Drew on performing in his first ever Olympic games.

**RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL
WORKERS' RIGHTS TO ORGANIZE**

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1096, to ensure that

House staffers have the same fundamental rights to organize and collectively bargain as workers across the Nation. Unions play an essential role in providing higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces. For decades, unions workers have consistently enjoyed 10- to 20-percent higher wages than their non-union counterparts. The benefits of union membership are so strong that studies show even the children of union workers enjoy greater economic mobility.

Unions also narrow both the racial wealth gap and the gender pay gap. Union members of color have almost five times the median wealth of their non-union counterparts. Moreover, unions close the gender wage gap almost completely, whereas on average non-union women are paid 78 cents for every dollar paid to non-union men.

Ultimately, unions provide workers with a voice on the job—and this proved to be critical during the pandemic. While the entire economy suffered from massive job losses throughout the pandemic, union workers suffered fewer job losses because they were able to bargain for fewer layoffs and safer workplaces.

As the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, I have led legislation that ensures workers can form and access all the benefits of a union. These rights should also be extended to House staffers.

House staffers are central to moving our country forward. They help constituents find affordable health care coverage and access social security benefits; they ensure Members of Congress can hear directly from the people; and they help draft legislation that protects and strengthens our democracy.

As I have repeatedly said, joining a union is a fundamental right—and that must hold true for House employees, too.

I thank Speaker PELOSI, Leader HOYER, Congresswoman LOFGREN, Congressman LEVIN, and so many others for their leadership on this important issue.

**HONORING ROBERTSON CHARTER
SCHOOL IN DECATUR, IL**

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robertson Charter School in Decatur, Illinois on their 2A 7th Grade Basketball State Championship.

Decatur Robertson played Normal Metcalf in the State Championship, and while both teams fought well, there was never a doubt that the Wildcats would come out on top. After an almost perfect game, the Wildcats won 38–27.

After a successful regular season and impressive post-season, Decatur Robertson showed that they are a team full of talent and promise. Like others, I am excited to see what they can accomplish next season.

I would like to personally congratulate the coaches and the players of Decatur Robertson for their outstanding season and 2A 7th Grade State Championship. They have certainly made the Decatur area proud. I look forward to seeing them all play in the future and go Wildcats.

APRIL LAMBATOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize April Lambatos for receiving the 2021 Young Professional of the Year Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. The Young Professional of the Year Award recognizes an Arvada young professional whose leadership and dedication have positively impacted their community.

April is the co-owner of Footers Catering and Social Capitol Events in Arvada. Under April's leadership, Footers Catering has been recognized as a 'Best Place to Work' by The Denver Post, Colorado Biz Magazine, The Denver Business Journal, and the ICC. April was recognized as a Titan 100, a 40 Under 40 winner by the Denver Business Journal, and a top COO through the DBJ C-Suite awards. In addition to her work at Footers and Social Capitol, April is a founding Board member of the Mile High Young Professionals, is an active Board member for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and is currently on the Board for the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation and the International Catering Association.

Congratulations again to April Lambatos on this recognition from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. I extend my deepest appreciation for her contributions to our community.

**IN RECOGNITION OF DEBORAH
MERRILL**

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Deborah Merrill's long-standing commitment to higher educational and wish her well as she enters retirement. Deborah's current role as the dean of the Peter T. College of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire is no easy task. In this role, Deborah oversees more than 3000 students and supports an incredible faculty team. This retirement is well deserved.

Prior to her work in higher education, Deborah worked for 15 years in international development and research management in Latin America and East Africa. Her commitment to pressing social issues has earned her grants from a variety of organizations, including the Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Fulbright, Social Science Research Council, and the Inter-American Foundation.

Deborah has worked to created multiple business and marketing programs for the residents of New Hampshire. These programs include the Center for Business Analytics, the Business in Practice Program, Creation of Voice Z, Changemaker Collaborative, among others. These programs offer educational and research opportunities to further students and residents' knowledge of the business world. Each of her programs has been incredibly successful in preparing students for careers in leadership and business roles.

As public health precautions during the coronavirus pandemic caused many institutions to close their doors to the public for prolonged periods of times, Deborah made sure